

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

June 21, 1893.—Dr. H. Woodward, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "On Two Dinosaurian Teeth from Aylesbury." By R. Lydekker, Esq., B.A., F.G.S.

Two teeth from the neighbourhood of Aylesbury, believed to be of Portlandian age, may be referred to the same species as is a tooth figured by De La Moussay from the Portlandian of Boulogne. The Aylesbury teeth are described in the paper, and the nature of the animal which possessed them is discussed.

2. "On a new Plesiosaur from the Waipara River, New Zealand." By Capt. F. W. Hutton, F.R.S., F.G.S.

This specimen was shortly described by Sir James Hector in 1873. The Author considers it more prudent to follow Mr. Lydekker in referring all the known New Zealand Cretaceous Sauropterygians with which he is acquainted to Leidy's genus *Cimoliosaurus*, and he therefore describes this form as a new species of that genus.

3. "Observations on the Affinities of the Genus *Astrocœnia*." By Robert F. Tomes, Esq., F.G.S.

Researches recently made by the Author relative to the structure of certain undoubted *Astrocœniæ* of the Gosau beds, having for their primary object the better understanding of the supposed species of the genus obtained from the Glamorganshire conglomerate, have been productive of results which will render a complete modification in the classificatory position of the genus imperative.

The Author gives a new definition of the genus, in which he does not at present include any species of an earlier date than the Cretaceous period, all the so-called Jurassic *Astrocœniæ* being referable to other and quite distinct genera.

4. "Description of a new Genus of *Madreporaria* from the Sutton Stone of South Wales." By Robert F. Tomes, Esq., F.G.S.

In the Quarterly Journal for 1885 is a detailed description of a coral from the Sutton Stone named *Astrocœnia gibbosa*. This specimen is not the type of the species, and a re-examination of it by the Author has proved that it is not an *Astrocœnia*. Two other specimens have also been examined, and as a result of examination of the three the Author is enabled to found a new genus *Styloseris*, of which a diagnosis is given, and the specific name *gibbosa* is retained for this, the only known species. The genus will take its place near *Clausastræa*, from which it differs by possessing a well developed columella and increasing by both fissiparity and gemmation.

5. "On Cheilostomatous Bryozoa from the Middle Lias." By Edwin A. Walford, Esq., F.G.S.

The Author describes some forms of Bryozoa from the *spinatus*-zone of the Middle Lias near Banbury, some of which had previously been classed with the Cyclostomata. The new material not only shows the opercular aperture but the opercula *in situ*, together with appendages and supra-oral ovicells characteristic of the Cheilostomata. In addition he has also found giant cells (cistern-cells) of form quite dissimilar from the ordinary zoëcia and probably reproductive. He cites M. Jules Haime as having described in his magnificent monograph somewhat similar cells from the Inferior Oolite; and in the Oxfordshire Great Oolite Bryozoa Mr. Walford has found cistern-cells like the Lias species on some colonies like *Diastopora*. He contends that it is merely the acquisition of very well-preserved material which is needed to show the necessity of removal of many such species to the Cheilostomata. The name *Cisternophora* is suggested for the genus, of which several forms are described.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Hybrids or Mongrels with two Male Parents.

MR. HERBERT SPENCER, in the 'Contemporary Review' for March, enters at some length into the evidence concerning the possible influence of one male parent on the offspring of another male by the same female. This question was discussed by Darwin, and the best-authenticated instances are well known; but, granting the validity of the evidence, the explanation given—that the sexual elements of the first male parent modified the somatic cells of the female—is surely not sufficiently proven to admit of the phenomenon being adduced as fatal to Weismann's hypothesis.

Sir John Lubbock (Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xx. p. 133) has published an instance among ants, in which it appears that the spermatozoa retained their life and energy in the body of a female for no less than thirteen years. Therefore it is possible to imagine that the male elements of the first parent really fertilized the ovum, giving rise to the supposed offspring of the second parent, although, for various reasons which need not be entered upon, this seems highly improbable.

But it does not seem so improbable that they may have *partly* fertilized it. Strasburger has shown that among plants the pollen of a species very diverse from that which he attempted to fertilize with it would frequently produce a certain amount of growth in the ovum, resulting in an aborted embryo, which would never have been noticed had not special attention been paid to the subject. Now it